



Veterans' Affairs Committee
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Veterans' Affairs Committee

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Veterans' Affairs Committee was called to order by C. Martin Stevens, Chairperson, on Wednesday, February 20, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., in the City Attorney's Main Conference Room, 7th Floor, City Hall, 255 W. Alameda St., Tucson, Arizona.

1. Call to Order/Establish a Quorum

Members Present:

Dr. Lester Potts
William Stein
Larry Byrd
Norman Ross
J.L. "Pepe" Mendoza
Herbert Rogers
Saul Stoltz
C. Martin Stevens, Chairperson

Members Absent:

Bernard McCaffery
Joan Shadwick
George Bowens
Rose Anderson
Aaron Possien
Paul R. Hetrick
E. Wendell Hague

Others Present:

PFC Chris Swenson
Ernie Minchella

Representing:

American Legion Post #36
DAV Auxiliary Cactus #2
Esperanza En Escalante
Korean War Veterans' Association
So. AZ. VA Health Care System
Spanish Trail Chapter NCOA
Tucson Jewish War Veterans
Veteran's Employment & Training

Representing:

American Legion Post #73
AZ Department of Veterans Services
DAV Cactus Chapter #2
Esperanza En Escalante
The Order of the Silver Rose
Vietnam Veterans of America, CH. 106
VFW Post #549

US Army Garrison, Ft. Huachuca
American Legion Post #36

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by William Stein.

3. Invocation

The invocation was given by Dr. Lester Potts.

4. Introduction of Guests

Ernie Minchella, of the American Legion Post #36, was introduced to the committee.

5. Approval of New Members

No new members were considered.

6. Chairman's Report on Current Events

Chair Stevens announced there would be a special presentation of a belated Bronze Star, initiated by Senator McCain, at Ft. Huachuca on Wednesday, February 27, 2008. Many dignitaries were expected to be present and Norman Ross would be attending to represent the committee.

Chair Stevens reported that the 2007 Operation Exodus list was in the submission process for preparation of certificates to participants.

7. Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2008

It was moved, duly seconded and passed by a voice vote of 8 to 0 (Bernard McCaffery, Joan Shadwick, George Bowens, Rose Anderson, Aaron Possien, Paul R. Hetrick and E. Wendell Hague, absent/excused) to approve the minutes of January 9, 2008 as presented.

8. Recruitment of Organizations

No report was given.

9. Discussion / Action for the Four Chaplains Ceremony

Chair Stevens reported the plans for the Four Chaplains Ceremony were still in progress and he would be in contact with Chaplain Zinck for further details. The tentative date for the Ceremony was Sunday, April 27, 2008.

10. Discussion / Action Regarding the Addition / Replacement of an Alternate Signer to the Committee Checking Account

It was moved, duly seconded and passed by a voice vote of 8 to 0 (Bernard McCaffery, Joan Shadwick, George Bowens, Rose Anderson, Aaron Possien, Paul R. Hetrick and E. Wendell Hague, absent/excused) to add C.M. Stevens as an additional signer to the Committee checking account to replace Donald Alff.

11. Discussion/Action Concerning the Use of Veterans' Affairs Committee Stationary for Raising Funds for a Carillon at the Sierra Vista Location of the National Veterans Cemetery.

Norman Ross reported that half the needed matching funds for a carillon at the Sierra Vista National Veterans Cemetery had been raised, but about eighteen thousand dollars was still needed. The committee agreed it was in support of the project but that the strong Sierra Vista Veterans entity should do the fund raising.

12. Committee Reports – Discussion/Action

a. Airport Military Lounge

PFC Chris Swenson provided a monthly Military Liaison Utilization Report for December, 2007. She said she would provide an inventory of Military Lounge items and a list of the 2007 Operation Exodus Volunteers who worked at the Lounge by e-mail to the Committee.

b. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Joan Shadwick could not be in attendance, so no report was given. The request to have an additional representative from the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services was still pending.

c. V A Hospital

Pepe Mendoza reported Telemundo TV would be covering a special salute to Veterans. He said the 60 minutes special on Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom would also be carried on the WorldWide TV Network.

d. Arizona Veterans' Employment Services

No report was given.

e. Financial Report

Wendall Hague could not be in attendance, so no report was given.

13. Future Agenda Items

- Cheryll Frazier of the Veterans Administration would come in March to provide information on available programs

14. Salute to Colors

The Salute to Colors was led by Chair Stevens.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.